



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

Best Wishes for a Happy and DX filled New Year to all. With contests coming up in the near future and DXpeditions down the line, there should be ample opportunity to add those new ones we all could use.

From the discussions on the 147.18 repeater that I've been hearing these mornings, the 6 meter band is really open into Europe and South and Central America. Gary, K4MQG, Ron, AA4S and Roger, W4MW, are regularly comparing notes on what can be heard and worked from their various locations. Speaking of VHF, congratulations to Paul, AA4ZZ and his mountaintopper crew for their efforts in winning the Limited

Multioperator classification nationally in the June 2001 VHF contest. Details are in the January 2002 issue of QST starting on Page 109. The January effort will on the weekend of Jan. 19-20. AA4ZZ will be found on 6m, 2m, 220, 440 and anything else that they can load up!!

73, Bill, W4WNT

W4WNT	Bill Turner	President
W4JG	Jack Guion	Vice-Pres.
W4NZC	Ken Cannaday	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
-	Lloyd Burt	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

Why is this Man Smiling????



(For the answer, see Page 6.)

A Recent Email....

Subject: USS North Carolina Special Event

A group from The Shelby Amateur Radio Club spent 2 days aboard the ship on a special event in honor of Pearl Harbor. We made over 1700 contacts and worked 30 countries. This was in a 32 hour period. Just thought I would let you know, and if you would like to put it in your news letter, we also have some pictures I can e-mail. Tnx,73 KA4TFP, Mark Beaver

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
1929 Ewing Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203

Tippett on Top

Bill Tippett quietly landed on top of the heap in the 2001 CQWW DX 160 Meter CW contest. With 456,060 points, he was ahead of the closest competition by over 40,000 points.

Please Pay Your 2002 Dues—Now!

Your annual dues to support CDXA activities are payable now. If you are a user of the PacketCluster, then please remit \$30. If not using the PacketCluster, dues are \$15 per annum. Please remit to:

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
1929 Ewing Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203
Email: W4NZC@att.net

So Ken does not have to seek out each of our 140+ members, please remit promptly. If you'll not be active in 2002, letting Ken know by email or snail mail will make his life easier, too.

Annual Meeting Ends an Era

The end of an era followed shortly on the heels of the CDXA's Annual Meeting/Christmas Banquet held on December 20, 2001. After many years of operating The Branding Iron restaurant in Rock Hill, Ric Porter, AA4SC, will be leasing the establishment to new operators and will be opening a new restaurant in Garden City, SC.

Despite the realization that Ric won't be the primary operator of the restaurant in the future, the food and drink was still excellent when mixed with the fellowship of the evening. Everyone enjoyed the chance to reacquaint themselves with those who can't make the regular luncheon scene as well as all the XYLs in attendance.

The results of the CQWW SSB "contest within a contest" were made known by Ted Goldthorpe, and awards were presented. The results of the full contest are in this issue of the Pileup.

Elections were held in the Annual Meeting portion of the evening. Bill Turner, W4WNT will continue as our President. Jack Guion, W4JG, will continue as our Vice President with Ken Cannaday, W4NZC continuing as Secretary/Treasurer. John Scott, K8YC, and Joe Simpkins, K4MD, round out the slate as Editor and Cluster Manager, respectively.

Change, or More of the Same????

This issue of the **Pileup** marks the beginning of the third year your editor has undertaken the responsibility of trying to keep you—the membership—informed, amused, and generally feeling you're part of the CDXA through our publication. In the first issue under my hand, I indicated I would provide software reviews, website reviews, a little humor, contesting results, discuss items of technological interest, and highlight the successes and achievements of our membership. In that effort, I've had successes and failures. (Millie Henry and Mike Farad in the "Adventures of Millie and Mike" won the "gong show" award and have been put to rest!) From this editor's perspective, response from the membership has been wonderful. Someone is always waltzing in with some new "stuff" for an upcoming issue, and this makes my job a lot easier. I also sense that those contributing content ideas or actually writing an article feel that they become a part of the association in a larger sense, and I'll always honor the contributor with a "byline" for the effort.

Yet, there are always opportunities to improve what we've got, and your ideas are important in that effort. So, I'd like to hear from you if you'd like to see some changes in the content or presentation of the **Pileup**. Write me at jascott@ix.netcom.com or at my home address, available on our website or via QRZ.COM.
—John Scott, K8YC



*What are these guys looking at?
See "Whatcha Doin" on Page 5!*

Mountaintoppers Reach the Summit

The past three or four VHF contests have found our "mountaintop" crew in the hunt for top honors, but "no cigar" as they say. Well, sit back, boys, and light up your stogies, because station AA4ZZ has scaled the summit. In the January, 2002 QST on page 110, you'll find AA4ZZ sitting atop the Limited Multioperator category in the 2001 ARRL June VHF QSO party—a full 162,000+ points ahead of the competition with 473,308 points. We hinted this might be in the cards in the October 2001 issue of the Pileup, but did not go beyond that for fear of jinxing the effort.

This gang of VHFers has worked hard on putting together a class station atop the Blue Ridge. It's tough competing with stations in the more populous areas of the Northeast and California where mountaintops are close to populous areas and provide line-of-sight to lots of grid squares. Yet, an excellent band opening into Europe for several hours had the crew pumped up at contest's end. But, what of the competition? Did they get the same opening? Finally, in December the ARRL placed the prepublication version of the results on the member's page of the web, and AA4ZZ was the winner. Then, just as quickly, they took it down. An error in results compilation? Were they or were they not the winners? Then, a few days before QST arrived in the mail, it was official, and our guys were still on top. Congratulations to AA4ZZ, AA4S, K2SD, K4DXA, K4MQG, W4GRW, W4MW, and W4VHF. Savor the joy guys, and get ready for the January VHF contest.

A Recent Email...

Just got my cards back from ARRL, so I thought I would report my totals. Mixed 350/331 (missing BS7, P5, VU/AND, and now VP6/D). Phone 337/321 (sent in all at one time this year. Sorry, dxcc desk!) CW 282/274 (I'm working on it, 170 submitted this time around.)

Next years target is DXCC on the WARC bands and filling in holes. Also in 2001, got the 5BWAZ Basic award with 192 zones confirmed. I've received 3 more zones since then and only need zones 17, 18, 23, 24 and 26 on 80 meters. New 80 meter sloping dipole snagged me VU2WAP first day.

Missed the CQWW due to being on call for new job... Sorry, guys. Next year!

73, see you in the pileups Steve, KZ2I

Communications “Giant” Passes

Somehow the passing of Claude Shannon on February 24, 2001 occurred without my knowledge. Who’s Claude Shannon, you say? When you turn on the digital signal processor on your rig, use your digital cellular phone, or fire up your digital subscriber line (DSL) to surf the Internet you are doubtlessly making use of digital concepts that Shannon introduced in two unprecedented papers authored as a young engineer at Bell Telephone Labs in the 1940s.

Those papers were entitled “*A Symbolic Analysis of Relay and Switching Circuits*” and “*A Mathematical Theory of Communication*” and they remain monuments in the fields of computer science and information theory. “Shannon made Einstein-caliber discoveries that were totally unanticipated,” stated David Neuhoﬀ, professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan where Shannon earned his undergraduate degree. “They came as a big shock and were fully developed. No one until him even thought there was a science in communications, and it’s colored everything since.... People just wouldn’t be aiming at the goals they’re striving for now without Claude Shannon.” Other comments from Shannon’s colleagues...

“To make the chance of error as small as you wish? Nobody had ever thought of that. How he got that insight, how he even came to believe such a thing, I don’t know. But almost all modern communication engineering is based on that work. –Robert Fano, MIT

“Shannon’s work hangs over everything we do. For 50 years, people have worked to get to the channel capacity he said was possible. Only recently have we gotten close. His influence was profound.” -- Robert Lucky, Bell Telephone Laboratories

Thank you, Mr. Shannon, for your marvelous insight and gift of knowledge.

Items For Sale

Roger Burt, N4ZC, indicates that he has the following items for sale under the conditions stated below:

M2 4030M4L 4 el 40/30 m 4 el on 42' boom. Never used. About 75% built on ground. Cost new \$1150 plus \$100 truck. \$900

42' long 3" KLM boom with boom-to-mast plate and support truss. Used in 4 el 40 m KLM monoband beam. \$75

Hy-gain 6 element, 6 meter beam. \$100

Cushcraft 32-19 19 element, 2 meter beam. \$55

Cushcraft 15-4CD 4 element, 15 meter beam. \$100

Mosley 4 element, 10 meter beam. \$55

ex-CB 3 element, 10 meter beam. \$25

Some on the ground, some you need to take down.
ALL PICK UP ONLY

Don Daso, K4ZA, has the following for sale:

Original “WOMLY” antenna switchbox. 9-position remote switchbox. All moving parts restored New gold plated SO-239 connectors installed in new, larger stainless steel enclosure, along with new barrier terminal strip. \$125.00 delivered to your door!

If you know what an “MLY” box is, you’ll know this is a bargain. If you don’t, let Don tell you. “Dick designed and sold these boxes, which use a Ledex rotary solenoid driving a Radio Corporation (heavy duty) ceramic switch, years ago back in the Gus Browning days. These are workhorse switchboxes. Compared to an Ameritron RCS-8, this is a bargain....”

So there you have it for this month’s items for sale.

Our Intertwined Web

Paul, AD4IE sent me a note that John Travis, W4QCF, of Asheville had stopped by the radio room at Discovery Place while Paul was on duty. John is a member of the local chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association there. Their group has just recently opened the Southern Appalachian Radio Museum in Asheville. Details about it can be found on the web at:

www.saradiomuseum.org.

I went to that site only to find that one of our number, Carl Smith, N4AA, is the President of the museum and John Travis is none other than its Secretary-Treasurer. I “ribbed” Carl in an email about whether he didn’t have enough to do with his time.

His reply, “What can I say John? Ya gotta have some

(Continued on page 5)

Whatcha doin' up thar?

"Cudja move it a little more to the right?"



On the morning of the CDXA Banquet, a group of supporters gathered at Frank Dowd's place to "help" Don Daso and Frank complete several day's preparations and install a new 40 meter beam atop Frank's 120 foot tall tower. While chilly, the bright sun and moderate (for December) temperature allowed all activities to be completed without a hitch. The sidewalk superintendents included Jack Guion, Paul Ponak, Ed McKnight, Ted Goldthorpe and John Scott. Gary Dixon was a "worker" and handled the radio communications between Don and



the crane operator.

Of course the presence of an acquired crane with a "bucket" always helps! Above is a view of the crane from afar. Frank tells me all is now working well. The old adage that "good things take time" is true in this case, since the replacement beam had been languishing in Frank's recreation room for several years. Frank's XYL is VERY happy now.

(Continued from page 4)

thing to take up more of your time when you are "RETIRED???" Like I have time to be retired - huh! I have been trying to get the museum up and running for at least ten years and finally managed to get enough people interested to accomplish the task. It's fairly small at the moment, but we are growing and the College has been great to work with—providing space and even the station equipment (TS440 and an FT736, already on hand in their electronics department). We have had a tremendous amount of equipment donated to us, some old and some relatively new - both ham and non-ham. We have a couple of 1920's Atwater Kents, etc."

The website shows off some of that equipment. If you get up Asheville way, be sure to take in the museum.

Well Done, Ed!

(The November 2001 QST showed our own Ed Swiderski had fared quite well in the 2001 ARRL International DX contest operating from the "Kiva" of the Winston-Salem Contest Club. I wrote a note to Ed asking how he got Henry Heidtmann to relinquish the kiva to him. Below is Ed's reply. —The Editor)

"Well, Henry was like a "mother hen" that weekend. He was urging me to break his NC record that he established in the 2000 contest where he finished 2nd overall in W/VE. He was in and out of the 'KIVA' checking my progress all weekend. I still kid him about taking 80m away from me on the first night.

The funny thing about ARRL DX SSB last year was that Henry and I had planned to do a M/S or M/2. Turns out he had unexpected visitors for the weekend and it was decided for me to go SOLP at 23:57Z. No planning at all and we didn't have 160m available.

I'm not really one to "crow" but I did have my best contest and DXing year in the 7 1/2 years I've been licensed. I have my DXCC, 5BDXCC, WAZ and 5BWAZ progress on my website along with WAE and WPX totals. I set a new Roanoke Division record for ARRL 10m in SOLP SSB last year.

Also, this year I created and started issuing the Worked All North Carolina Counties Award (WANC). An award for working all 100 NC counties. (A writeup was done in CQ). Am also a CQ Awards Checkpoint along with being a ARRL WAS checker.

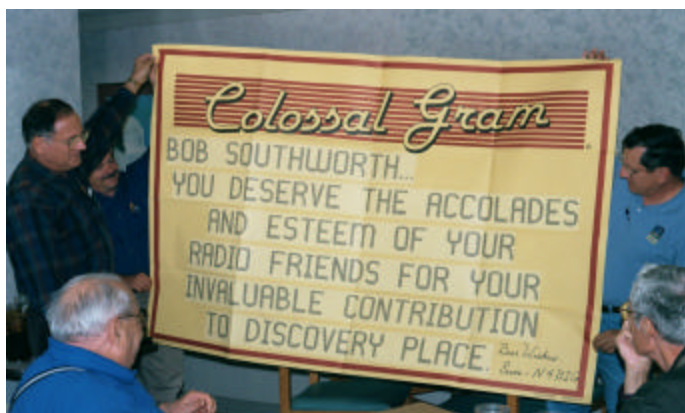
Off to the bands this morning, Ed KU4BP

(FB, Ed, keep on truckin'. —The Editor)

One More Hurrah for Bob Southworth

Who was a great moving force for designing and completing a radio room for public view at Discovery Place science center? Who has been the station manager of that room since its inception 10 years ago?

The answer, of course, is Bob Southworth, KI4YV. We “share” Bob with the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society where he is also very active. Bob recently decided to step down from his role as the Station Manager at Discovery Place. In honor of Bob’s outstanding service to Discovery Place, the staff held a special presentation ceremony for Bob in mid-November at our regular luncheon meeting. Below is a picture of John White, WB2NHQ, presenting a “telegram” to Bob from Ervin Jackson, a longtime supporter of the Discovery Place



And the Winners are....

Below are few of the award winners from the “Contest within a Contest” being presented their awards by Ted Goldthorpe at the Christmas Banquet. Full results are shown in the column to the right.



CQWW Intraclub Contest Results

Here are the results of the CDXA intraclub contest for the CQ Worldwide contest for both Phone and CW:

Phone

Class	Callsign	Name	Points
Unlimited			
Winner	N8WRL	B. Smithson	1,790,322
Runnerup	N4PQX	R. Burton	1,250,190
2nd Runnerup	W4SI	R. Harper	657,968
Unlimited-Asst.			
Winner	W3GQ	P. Sturpe	996,400
Runnerup	—	—	—
Limited			
Winner	NC4NC	C. Oakes	229,632
Runnerup	W4WNT	W. Turner	126,442
2nd Runnerup	WA4DOU	R. Lincoln	63,627
Limited, Asst.			
Winner	AD4IE	P. Ponak	199,374
Runnerup	K8YC	J. Scott	52,195

Our outstanding “offshore” CQWW participant this year was Steve Reichlyn, AA4V, who produced 7,015,275 points while working from the US Virgin Islands in the SSB contest.

Participation was down a bit this year in the CW contest. Perhaps many were still digesting their turkey dinners! We’ll look for a few more seeking awards next year.

CW

Class	Callsign	Name	Points
Unlimited			
Winner	WA4DOU	R. Lincoln	509,600
Limited			
Winner	W4SI	R. Harper	346,527
Runnerup	W4WNT	W. Turner	22,032
Limited, Asst.			
Winner	K8YC	J. Scott	83,276

The Historical One Dollar Bill

(Author Unknown—Internet Lore)

The One Dollar Bill. Take out a one dollar bill and look at it closely. The dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called "paper money" is in fact a cotton and linen blend with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. Its actually material....and we've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. The bill is overprinted with symbols and then starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look. If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance—a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath that is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved. If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks,

yet no one knows what the symbols mean. The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown....and we had just broken away from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of the shield there is a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak is a banner proclaiming "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have 1 stars representing the 13 original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all. Tell everyone—especially your children at the dinner table tonight—what is on the back of the one dollar bill and what it stands for, because nobody else will.

(Your editor can't recall just who this came from, but thought it would be interesting reading. Having made an oral report on coins and currency in a junior high class, this editor has always paid attention to the special features of coins and currency. Take a magnifying glass to our currency sometime. It's outstanding.)

The Back Page

Don't forget to look for the AA4ZZ gang in the 2002 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes on January 19-21. They'll be on the mountaintop as usual and can always use as many QSOs and grid squares as we can provide them. If you've got a mobile rig, consider doing some roving for your own satisfaction as well as to help the mountaintoppers. Email announcing operations to follow for those with email capabilities.

Upcoming Contest Activity:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Jan. 11-13	NA QSO Party, CW	Sponsor: NCJ January QST, P. 107 or www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.html
Jan. 19-21	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	December QST, P. 111 for rules
Jan. 19-20	NA QSO Party, Phone	NCJ Contest, January QST, P. 107 for details
Jan. 25-27	CQ WW 160-Meter CW Contest	November 2001 CQ, P. 105
Feb. 9-10	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	January 2002 CQ, P. 104
Feb. 22-24	CQ WW 160-Meter SSB Contest	November 2001 CQ, P. 105

Look inside for a circular announcing the **2002 Charlotte Hamfest**. Dates are March 9 & 10. Plan on attending the hamfest and the CDXA dinner which is held on Saturday night of the hamfest. Some great forums are on tap. Bob Heil of Heil Sound will be back for his 20th Anniversary presentation.

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W4NZC at once, please.